LOS ALTOS HILLS CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XXV No. 2 June 2002

CALENDAR

June 2, Sunday, 1-4 PM, **REMINDER! Annual Spring Family Picnic**, Little League Field.

June 6, Thursday, 6:30 PM, **PUBLIC HEARING, 2002 Master Pathway Plan Map**, Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Rd.,

June 13, Thursday, **Deadline to apply for Planning Commission and Volunteer Positions.** Call City Clerk at 941-7222 X 226.

July 4, Thursday, **Glorious 4th Independence Day Celebration**, 11 AM - 2 PM, Shoup Park, 400 University Ave., Info.: 949-5908

July 13 & 14, Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival, 10 AM- 6 PM, Downtown, Info. 949-5282 or www.losaltos-downtown.org

NEW TOWN HALL

A Mission Style Beauty

At long last the Los Altos Hills new Town Hall is becoming a reality. The renowned architect, John Goldman, from San Francisco presented the renderings of the mission style building and general schematic drawings to the City Council on April 18.

The cost of the project is estimated at $3.5 million. It will be paid for from the Town budget, however, a portion is expected to come from donations.

The current Town Hall is 47 years old and is in need of replacement. It does not meet current building codes and needs seismic retrofitting. In the past, there have been serious electrical malfunctions resulting in fires. There is a serious lack of space to carry out the public's business in the current building.

The City Council has approved the new mission style building, approximately 6900 square feet. It will include an interior courtyard built around the heritage oak tree, expanded front area reception space, additional office space, larger Council Chambers to accommodate 100 people (present capacity 60), meeting rooms, employee lounge and catering kitchen (that will facilitate public events at Town Hall). The Sheriff's officers and public works officials will relocate from the Heritage House to inside the New Town Hall.

The process used for developing the new proposed Town Hall included a programmatic needs assessment by soliciting input from all of the volunteer committees, staff, and council members. Residents surrounding the Town Hall have had an opportunity to review the proposed new building in meetings with Council members and City Manager, Maureen Cassingham, resulting in some changes in the design.

Refinements are currently underway to develop more detail that includes input from the City Council concerning minor changes to floor plan that will indicate flexibility of the wall spaces for future expansion or contraction.

Entrance to the New Town Hall will be directly from Fremont Road - this represents a big change. There will be 52 parking spaces compared with 44 currently on the site. Heritage House will be moved to another location - yet to be determined.

As soon as the final schematics are completed, the public will have an opportunity to comment on the space and building.

Groundbreaking will not take place until fall, at the earliest. It is anticipated that construction will take 18 months.

GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 5, 2002

ELECTION NOTICE

On November 5, 2002 a General Municipal Election will be held in Los Altos Hills. Two members of the City Council will be elected each for four-year terms. The nomination period is July 15, 2002 through August 9, 2002 and nomination packets may be picked up from the City Clerk during this period of time. Candidates must be United States Citizens, at least 18 years of age, a resident of Los Altos Hills and a registered voter in Los Altos Hills at the time the nomination papers are issued. For additional information please contact City Clerk Pat Dowd at 941-7222, extension 226.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Status of 2002 Park Bond Act Funding

When voters approved the 2002 Park Bond Act on March 5, 2002, cities were assured a minimum of $220,000 each in per capita funding for eligible park projects. The Park Bond Act of 2000, by comparison, allocated $75,000 to the Town which has yet to be earmarked for a particular project. We used our Roberti-Z'Berg-Harris allocation of $24,167 from the 2000 Act for the playground equipment at the Little League fields. The Town's allocation from the 2002 Roberti-Z'Berg funds has not been announced but it would be in addition to the $220,000 in per capita funding.

City Manager Maureen Cassingham

Report on Building Technician "Job Shadowing"

To stimulate new customer service and work processing ideas, Building Technician Jeanne Evilsizer recently arranged for a "job shadowing" exchange with her counterpart from the Town of Los Gatos. Both staff members benefited from the opportunity to observe each others work activities during the course of the business day.

Connection of Town Emergency Operations Center to Water District EOC Back-up Communications System

On April 24, the Town received a Santa Clara Valley Water District EOC email system PC on "permanent" loan which was installed in the Heritage House. The District's EOC email system is a backup to the email network between all Santa Clara County Operational Area Emergency Operations Centers and is intended to compliment the existing Op Area EOC to EOC radio system. This is an independent email backup system, not a rival or substitute for the discontinued SCOA RIMS program.

Contract Public Safety Officer Position Filled

On May 6, 2002, Steven Garcia will commence his duties as the Town's contract Public Safety Officer which is funded by COPS. He will provide emergency planning /operations support, do code enforcement for Planning and offer assistance to our deputies as needed. Steven has had extensive law enforcement, management and customer service experience prior to accepting this position. He will share the Deputy's office in the Heritage House.

Appointment of Associate Engineer

Richard Chen, former Associate Engineer for the City of San Mateo, will join the Town's Engineering staff on May 20. Richard will fill this new position which was created by the recent reorganization of the Engineering and Public Works divisions that eliminated the Public Works Manager. His experience will permit greater mobilization of the Town's CIP, more in-house engineering work and consultant oversight.

—Maureen Cassingham, City Manager

NEW ASSISTANT PLANNER

Los Altos Hills is fortunate to attract high quality applicants to vacant positions.

Debbie Pedro recently joined the Planning Department as the new assistant planner, replacing recently departed Matt Weintraub. After being on the job for two months, Debbie says that she really is enjoying the working environment in Los Altos Hills. "I truly enjoy the small town and the teamwork - it is a very collegial atmosphere. It is great to work so closely with engineering and building department staff and to have the opportunity to expand my knowledge."

Debbie Pedro Assistant Planner

Debbie graduated from University of California, Berkeley in 1990 with a baccalaureate degree in architecture. After obtaining her architectural degree, it was simply a natural career progression to urban planning. At this time, she is pursuing a master's degree in urban and regional planning from San Jose State University.

Debbie's family owns a scientific equipment and supplies business in Burlingame. At first, she thought she might join her father and brother in the family business (her father would have liked that!). She credits her time spent in the family business as helping her develop good skills in working with the public. "It was great to learn marketing techniques and skills in the family business," states Debbie.

But Debbie decided she wanted to follow her own bliss and become a planner.

Prior to joining LAH, she worked as a planner in the Community Development Department in Foster City where she performed design review and code enforcement.

Urban planning synthesizes all four elements of planning that she enjoys -urban design, land use, law and architecture.

In the past two months Debbie has worked on 5-6 new residential development projects, managed fast track applications and attended planning commission meetings.

Her goals for the future include continued pursuits in planning and gaining more in-depth expericence in working in the public sector.

In her spare time, Debbie and a group of single friends love to travel - most recently going to China. Although she was born in Hong Kong, this was her first trip to mainland China. Debbie grew up in San Mateo graduating from Aragon High School. Since the age of six, she has studied classical piano and still plays for her own enjoyment. Debbie's current avocation is learning how to knit - she is great at making scarves.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Debbie. She is a great asset to the Town Hall team.

For Council Agenda and Minutes, See our Website: www.losaltoshills.ca.gov

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Town Planning approvals for new development since March 2002, include the following: three new residences approved through the Fast Track review process, two major additions, two minor variances, three swimming pools and three landscape screening plans.

Planning Director Carl Cahill

The Planning Commission reviewed the following: one new residence, one conditional use permit, one request to amend the Town Master Path Map, the noise ordinance and the draft 2002 General Plan Housing Element. The Planning Commission, in conjunction with the Municipal Code and Policy Review Committee, also studied the Town's policies and rules on conservation easements, driveways, fences, outdoor lighting, structure colors and materials, landscaping and structure siting and forwarded its recommendations to the City Council.

—Carl Cahill, Planning Director

RECENT HOUSE BURGLARIES

Two burglaries occurred in May. Houses were broken into - both on Green Hills Court (off Elena), close to Foothill Campus at about 9:15 PM, while both families were at home.

The burglars did the usual: entered through the master bedroom (one was on the 2nd floor, accessed via balcony), and took only jewelry. Another entered through an opened bathroom window. Several houses with similar patterns, although from different areas of LAH (Summerhill, Normandy, Robleda, now Elena) have suffered burglaries. Be vigilant in watching your neighborhood, report unusual cars or people to the Sheriff by calling 9-1-1.

Deputy Novick (LAH beat officer who took the report on May 1) recommends that residents exercise caution to ensure that their windows are closed, doors locked, garage doors closed and leave their alarms on *while in the house*.

In one case, it appeared that the burglar had initially tried to use a screwdriver to pry open a closed window and then discovered a window that was open.

K-9 Dogs were brought in, but no scent was detected. The Deputy says that the escape route was probably via El Monte, down to the Foothill campus and out to Hwy. 280.

Again, LAH enjoys a very low crime rate - however, such robberies occur in cycles. It behooves all residents to be vigilant and use good precautions.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE LAUNCHES NEW HAM NETWORK

The Los Altos Hills Emergency Communications Committee, recently formed and appointed by the Town Council, now has 15 members.

Led by Scott Overstreet, the Committee is revitalizing and building the Town's amateur radio volunteer network, including the service, skills, and equipment necessary for the Town's emergency communications system.

The ECC meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday evening at 7:30 PM. Each of the members has taken on specialty areas, such as repeater, packet, equipment planning, resource planning, and communication. The emergency communications system will serve as the "eyes and ears" for the town and ensure coverage of its geological heights and depths.

Members of the Committee are Scott Overstreet, Chairman, Rick Ellinger (Emergency Coordinator) Bob Lisbonne, Dru Anderson, Bob Anderson, David Gilmour, David Pratt, Ed Radlo, Jim Abraham, Maynard Stevenson, Paul Simon, Peter Berman, Sam Wood, Robert Smithwick, and Robert Hall.

In April, the Committee - 9 of the Ham Operators of the group - participated in the Santa Clara County Emergency Preparedness drill of similar city and county ham operations teams. This involved a scenario of a flood disaster and the associated perils. ECC members during the 2-hour drill rotated to response locations of simulated emergencies throughout the town. This type of drill, which occurs quarterly, tests the technical operation, and builds teamwork and procedures.

Ed Radlo, Ham Operator

Radio channels technology has been in place for a long time. Some people feel it may be overshadowed by advanced technologies such as cellular phone - until cellular fails either due to overload or lack of commercial power. Then ham radio volunteers return to provide a sustaining service on established radio networks and licensed ham operators become the important focal point for emergency communications. Today, these capabilities include countywide data transmission via packet radio networks.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Planning Commissioners - (Two, four-year terms)

Town Standing Committees - (Four Year Terms)

Community Relations, Emergency Committee, Environmental Design & Protection, Information & Safety, and Youth Commissioner

The City Council will hold interviews for these appointments at their Thursday, June 20, 2002 Council Meeting. Applications are available at Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, California 94022 during regular office hours, (8:00 AM to noon; 1:00 to 5:00 PM). For additional information, please call Pat Dowd at 941-7222, ext. 226. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, June 13, 2002 by 5:00 p.m.

MASTER PATHWAY PLAN BEGINS FIRST REVISION IN 21 YEARS

The Town Council last revised the Master Path Plan for Los Altos Hills 21 years ago in 1981. Many new roads, subdivisions, and homes have come into existence since then. The Town Council is in the process of determining what updates to the Master Path Plan need to be implemented.

The Pathway Committee has spent hundreds of man-hours over the last 12 months gathering data to help in updating the existing pathway map for the Town. Currently, Los Altos Hills has over 62 miles of beautiful roadside and off-road paths. Brian Robinson, a Los Altos native and winner of the Hiking Triple Crown, walked every existing path in town in February and March 2002 and recorded each path's map location and condition.

With this valuable information, the Pathway Committee recommended that all existing paths in town, both roadside and off-road, be kept on the new 2002 Master Path Plan. Thereafter, the Pathway Committee reviewed suggested off-road path segments from the old 1981 Master Path Plan where there are currently no existing paths. Each path segment was thoroughly studied and discussed in meetings open to the public, and committee votes were taken for each potential new off-road path in order to make recommendations to the Town Council. Numerous new roadside paths were also discussed and recommended.

The Planning Commission has also reviewed the map and made recommendations. On June 6, 2002 a public hearing with the Town Council will take place to get input from residents on the Master Pathway Plan update. After the Council has reviewed the recommendations from the Pathway Committee and the Planning Commission, and has heard from the residents, the Council will adopt an updated plan.

All residents are urged to study the proposed plan and attend these public meetings to voice your opinion.

—DuBose Montgomery, Chairman Pathways Committee

Town Newsletter - Statement of Purpose

To communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills to the residents of the Town and to facilitate, encourage and improve interaction between the residents and Town government. The 2002 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December. Deadline for the next issue is July 31, 2002.

Internet Address: www.losaltoshills.ca.gov

About Our Publication

The Town Newsletter is published with assistance from our Town Volunteer Committees.

Editor: Dorothy Duffy Price

Associate Editors: Barbara Lamparter, Linda Seidel, Karen Emerzian

Los Altos Hills City Council

• Toni Casey, Mayor • Robert Fenwick, Mayor Pro Tem
• Emily Cheng • Steve Finn • Mike O'Malley

Recycled Paper

TOWN WEB SITE HAS NEW LOOK

If you have visited the Town's web site recently, you will notice a new look. Los Altos Hills recently undertook to upgrade its web site to make it more resident friendly and higher tech. If you have not seen the new web site, you may view it at www.losaltoshills.ca.gov.

Some of the new additions to the web site include a greater use of photos and graphics, expanded information about the Town and its history, recreation programs, pathways, and open space areas. It also includes links to other related websites (Westwind Barn, Mid-Pen Open Space, Hidden Villa, Los Altos School District, and Palo Alto School District), as well as on-line applications for Town recreation programs, Town job openings, and Town volunteer committee openings.

It will also include (soon to be added) agendas, reports, and meeting minutes for Planning Commission, City Council, and Volunteer Committees, for residents to easily access. These will be updated prior to upcoming meetings. Archives of previous meetings (dating back to 1997) will also soon be added to the web site, with an expanded search capability.

Many of the important Town documents have also been added to the web site, including Town Newsletters, General Plan Elements (Housing, Pathway, Circulation, and Land Use), Town Municipal Code (still under development), Emergency Operating Plan, Town Fee Schedule, and 2001-2002 Operating and Capital Budgets.

It also includes contact information for Town Staff, Planning Commission, and City Council members. On-line feedback forms have also been added, allowing residents to give feedback on any issues they may have relating to the Town.

At a future time, there will be additional enhancements made to the web site to include a Town project list and status (including New Town Hall renderings and status, pathways map and status of new pathway construction, road maintenance plans, undergrounding utilities plans, on-going sewer projects, etc.), as well as added links and updates to many of the web site pages.

If you have any suggestions for changes or improvements that you would like to see incorporated into the web site to make it more resident-friendly and/or more useful to you, please contact Maureen Cassingham at Town Hall - call 941-7222.

—Bill Kerns, Member
Community Relations Committee

NEW PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Parks and Recreation Committee voted to recommend the establishment of a Town staffed Department of Parks and Recreation Coordinator with the Committee serving as an advisory body to the Department. The proposed position for the coordinator was was approved by the City Council on May 2. The new position will report directly to the City Manager and have responsibilities to plan, organize, manage and supervise assigned recreation activities within the Los Altos Hills recreation programs that include youth and adult enrichment classes, sports, horse and Ohlone camps.

MESSAGE FROM WESTWIND BARN

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Westwind Barn is hosting a variety of events in the year 2002, and I encourage all of you to come and participate. Westwind Barn is owned by the town of Los Altos Hills and operated by the Friends of Westwind Inc. It is located at 27210 Altamont Road, Los Altos Hills. The office number is 650-941-6113.

In addition to providing venues for Los Altos Hills summer programs and community events, Westwind is also a 50-horse boarding facility. There are 34 stalls and 16 pasture spots. Please come, take a look at your barn and consider boarding a horse here.

Dates to Remember:

June 15	Westwind Barn Annual Meeting in picnic area: All are welcomed
July 8-12	Pacific Ridge Pony Club: Horsemanship Camp
July 8-12	Los Altos Hills Parks and Recreation Programs: Ohlone Camp, Session One (Full)
July 15-19	Los Altos Hills Parks and Recreation Programs: Ohlone Camp, Session Two (Availability)
July 22-26	Los Altos Hills Parks and Recreation Programs: Ohlone Camp, Session Three (Full)
July 29-August 9	Los Altos Hills Park and Recreation Programs: Horsemanship Camps, Session One and Two (Both Full)
September 7	Hoedown. This year marks Westwind Barn's 25th anniversary. Barbecue, country dancing, silent auction, and demonstrations by Pacific Ridge Pony Club and the Westwind Drill Team will be featured.
October 3-7	Eric Herberman Dressage Clinic
October 20	Pacific Ridge Pony Club's Halloween Horse Show. The Pony Club's annual Halloween show attracts participates from around the Bay Area. Children and their mounts dress up and compete for various awards. This event is always well attended and a great way to celebrate autumn in the hills.

—Jane Kawasaki, Manager
Westwind Barn

INTRODUCTION TO CROQUET GOLF

LAH Recreation Programs presents Introduction to Croquet / Golf Croquet on Wednesday, July 24 at 10 AM to 12 Noon at Little League Field #2 on Purissima Road with follow-up classes TBA. Call 650-493-3322 to sign-up or e-mail JCroquet@aol.com.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Now's the Time to Plant Pumpkins

Pumpkin lore started when an Irishman named Jack made a deal with the devil that went sour, and his soul was doomed to wander the earth forever. Jack's only light came from a lantern he made from a hollowed-out turnip.

In Ireland, a tradition started where people would dress up in costumes, leave treats, and carve turnip lanterns to both appease and scare away wandering spirits on All Hallow's Eve. The Irish who came to America realized it was easier to carve a lantern from a pumpkin than a turnip and the familiar Jack O' Lantern was born.

Tony Zunino, rides with prize winning pumpkin.

Vince Zunino, our local urban gardener grows prize-winning pumpkins every year. He has found that Los Altos Hills has a great climate for producing big pumpkins and he has grown some of the largest pumpkin in California.

Growing your own pumpkins can be an enjoyable pastime and is great fun for the kids watching them grow. Now is a good time to plant pumpkins for harvest before Halloween.

Make Room For Them

Pumpkins need lots of room to grow. A patch of at least 200 square feet is required for most varieties. Pumpkins require about 120 frost-free days to mature. Early June is generally the best time to plant. The pumpkins will be ready to harvest in October before Halloween. When removing the fruit from the vine, take care that the stems don't break, because they serve as protective stoppers against fungi and bacteria entering the fruit.

If you have the space, and want to grow one of the biggest pumpkins in your neighborhood some good jumbo varieties are "Atlantic Giant" or "Prizewinner." You should prepare a patch of at least 400 square feet per plant to grow a *really* big one! Plant in rich soil and amend with plenty of compost. Allow the plant to set three fruits and then remove two, leaving the best to grow to maximum size.

If you are interested in growing pumpkins in your garden this year, email Vince at: pumpkins@zunino.net for some free seeds!

Have a great summer watching your pumpkins grow and a Happy Halloween!

—Duffy Price, Editor

RESIDENT'S REPLY CARD

Let's Hear What You Think

1. We'd like to hear from you. Please let us know what is on your mind about Los Altos Hills.

2. What issues would you like to see addressed in future Town Newsletters?

3. What else can we do to better serve you?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone / e-mail: _____

Please use this card or answer on a separate sheet. Send your responses to Town Hall, 26739 Fremont Rd. LAH, CA 94022 or Fax: 650/941-3160

5TH ANNUAL SPECIAL RIDERS HORSE SHOW & PLAYDAY AT WESTWIND BARN APRIL 28TH

Elizabeth McCormick of Los Altos riding Zeke (a Norwegian Fjord pony) - competed with 39 other riders.

Town of Los Altos Hills
26379 Fremont Road
Los Altos Hills, California 94022

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2001-2002 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER

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Rick Ellinger Robert Hall Robert Lisbonne
David Pratt Edward Radio Robert Smithwick
Maynard Stevenson Sam Wood

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Scott Overstreet Robert Smithwick Maynard Stevenson
Tom Turner

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Sharyn Brown, Chair Lysbeth Goodman Sandra Humphries
Pat Ley Robin Robison
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R.Douglas Norby Roy Rogers

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(formerly Safety and Utility and Information Systems)
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Michele Rose Valorie Stitt
Retirees: Mary Calderon Lisa Dorrian

PATHWAYS
Mike O'Malley
Co-Chairs: Nancy Ewald & Ginger Summit
Fred Fallah Jorge Fernandez Charlene Geers
Dubois Montgomery Ken Olcott Bob Stutz
Ginger Summit BobStutz Mahmoud Kamangar
Retirees: Harry Emerzian Scott Vanderlip

UTILITY & INFORMATION SYSTEMS
(Merged with Safety Committee: Information and Safety Committee)
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Retirees: Andrew Colman Raymond Egan
Richard Ellinger George Knight Robert Lefkowitz
Amir Rosenbaum Evan Wythe

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

L.U.F. COMMITTEE
(Slope Density Formula)
Retirees: Jim Abraham John Chu Carl Clement
Charlene Geers Ron Haley John Harpootlian Dot Schreiner

MUNICIPAL CODE & POLICY REVIEW
Evan Wythe, Chair Bill Kerns Mike O'Malley

SITE DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE REVIEW
Jim Abraham,Chair Carl Cottrell Bob Fenwick
Charlene Geers John Hartpootlian

JOINT COUNTY COMMITTEES

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BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Ken Olcott

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Gloria Shiff

COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARENESS COUNCIL
Rory Kaplan

LOS ALTOS LIBRARY COMMISSION
Barbara Lamparter
Retiree: Dottie Harrison-Brown
LOS ALTOS SENIOR CENTER
Martha Hunton Win Murray (Alternate)

NORTH COUNTY LIBRARY AUTHORITY
Emily Cheng
Retirees: Elayne Dauber Dottie Harrison-Brown

CITY/SCHOOLS BREAKFAST FORUM
Peggie Esber

OTHER TOWN VOLUNTEERS

JOINT VOLUNTEER AWARDS
Sharyn Brown Roger Burnell Rick Ellinger
Bob Fenwick Bob Stutz
Retirees: Bob Johnson Barbara Vetterlein

EXHIBIT CURATOR
Retiree: Ethel Blank

TOWN HISTORIAN
Rosemary Meyerott

LAH 1ST ANNUAL FUN RUN

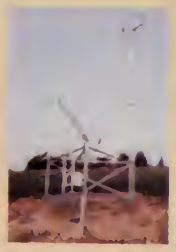
The first annual Los Altos Hills Pathways Benefit Run/Walk brought over 180 people to enjoy LAH pathways system for a competitive running event and a walking/hiking event for others. Both adults and kids enjoyed the Fun Run.

The Fun Run was a benefit for the Parks & Recreation Program. Pictured above is the start for the 5K run.

FIRE PROTECTION

NEW REMOTE AUTOMATED WEATHER STATION (RAWS)

The Town of Los Altos Hills is situated in an area covered with flammable vegetation. During the summer and fall months the potential exists for a devastating wild land fire with a high probability that numerous structures would be destroyed. These destructive fires typically occur when the weather is hot, dry, and windy.



RAWS ANTENNA

To react quickly and appropriately to these weather patterns the Santa Clara County Fire Department (SCCFD) has placed a Remote Automated Weather Station (RAW) in the hills above Foothill College.

The RAWS is solar powered and collects data automatically every hour. This data is then transmitted into the National Weather Information Management System (WIMS) and to the Santa Clara County Fire Department. This data includes temperature, fuel moisture, wind direction and speed, relative humidity, fuel temperature, rain and solar radiation. This RAWS data is then processed through the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) computer program. This program calculates and produces indexes that indicate expected fire behavior and control problems. These indexes are sent to the dispatch center an all district station 5 times daily.

The SCCFD uses these indexes to increase response to wild land fire during peak ignition and burning periods. The indexes are also used to augment staffing levels during critical fire weather patterns. The SCCFD is currently using the "Burn Index" to determine the response level it initially dispatches to wild land fires. The "Burn Index" is an open-ended number, which is directly related to the contribution of fire behavior to the effort of containing a fire. This index usually starts low in the morning hours, increases through mid day and typically peaks between 1500 and 1600 hours. This allow the dispatch level to increase as the potential for severe fire behavior increases. The current initial attached dispatch levels are:

BURN INDEX

0-29	LOW:	(1) Engine
30-59	MEDIUM	(2) Engines, (1) Four wheel drive Patrol, (1) Battalion Chief
60+	HIGH	(4) Engines, (2) Four wheel drive Patrols, (2) Battalion Chiefs

The following additional SCC Fire resources can be dispatched simultaneously with above response, or at anytime during the event prior to requesting mutual aid. The ability to receive accurate, up to date weather information greatly enhances the SCCFD ability to react quickly and with sufficient resources to aggressively attack wild land/urban interface fires in the initial stages.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

Long-time LAH resident and Foothill College faculty member, Brian Evans and his wife Kay, are participating in the Center for Cultural Interchange (CCI) program.

If you are interested in the world and like to help people then you may be just the family they are looking for. The 2002-03 academic school year is quickly approaching and the CCI needs to find host families for motivated high-school students from all over the globe: Vietnam, Germany, Brazil, Japan, Kosovo, Macedonia, Korea... and elsewhere. Don't put if off until next year... next year never comes. There is a young international student out there that needs your love and friendship right now.

Alternatively, do you want to study overseas? CCI can also accommodate high-school students who are interested in studying in a foreign country. There is NO BETTER way to learn about the world and yourself than by spending time abroad. It can give you direction and enthusiasm for life that you never imagined.

CCI is a non-profit student and adult exchange organization founded in 1985. Its goals are to promote cultural understanding, academic development and world peace through international exchange. The organization is a member of the Federation of International Youth Travel Organizations and is designated by the USIA as a J-1 Exchange Visitor Program Sponsor.

Should you be interested in sharing your home with an international student or exchanging in a foreign country, please contact Brian and Kay soon. Planning for the academic year is already underway. For more information please contact Kay and Brian Evans at 650-947-9486 or at k33evans@hotmail.com.